



California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc.

Over 50 years advocating for recreation

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division
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Cc: Sierra National Forest
Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor dagould@fs.fed.us
Susan Burkindine, Project Administrator sburkindine@fs.fed.us

March 31, 2013

Re: USFS - Sierra National Forest Grant Application Reference # G12-02-17-D01

Dear Grant Committee:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) and its membership. CA4WDC represents clubs and individuals within the State of California that are part of the community of four-wheel drive enthusiasts. Many of our members and supporters live in and/or recreate in the area covered by the *Sierra National Forest Grant Application # G12-02-17-D01*. This document shall not supplant the rights of other CA4WDC agents and organizational or individual members from submitting their own comments and the agency should consider and appropriately respond to all comments received to this proposed grant.

The project is to complete environmental analysis, purchase and install a double vault toilet at a 'Travel Management Area' called Bald Base Camp on the Sierra National Forest. This 14 acre area is a great camp spot that is centrally located to access the motorized trails on Bald Mountain, as well as the Brewer Lake and Swamp motorized trails; just over 40 miles of trail. Currently there are no restroom facilities at this location. Visitors either bring their own facilities or attempt to dig a 'cat hole' in the decomposed granite. With the amount of granite in the area, this is not always possible; allowing a human waste issue in the area.

The Bald Mountain Base camp is a very popular camping spot for our members and member clubs. In addition it is base camp for our High Sierra Poker Run event. The area is also base camp for Moonlight Madness an event of our member club, Clovis Independent Four Wheelers. Others use this area when recreating in the surrounding area.

Having a double vault toilet at Base Camp will improve sanitation and cleanliness of the area with a side benefit of improving the overall recreation experience in this managed motorized area. The direction for management activities (health and safety and resource protection) are primarily for resource protection rather than user convenience in motorized areas. Completion of this project will improve the health and safety of as it relates to human waste and thereby



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enhance the existing and future OHV use of the area. ATV's, motorcycles, ROV's and 4X4 vehicles use Base Camp as a staging area to access OHV roads/trails, hiking, fishing, mountain biking and equestrian use in the area.

The listed partners, The Four Wheel Drive Club of Fresno, Lock N Low Four Wheel Drive Club of Visalia, Clovis Independent Four Wheelers, 4X 4Him, Hill Hoppers, Kingsburg 4X4 Club, and Trail Busters of Kings County, are all members of CA4WDC.

As an organization that uses Bald Mountain Base Camp for our event we will be required to have the vault toilet pumped during our event as part of our permit requirements, and we support that requirement.

For these reasons CA4WDC would like to ask that this grant be funded fully to enhance the recreational experience in this popular area.

CA4WDC appreciates the opportunity to comment on this grant request made by the Sierra National Forest. CA4WDC is eager to assist land managers and we hope these comments have been helpful in the importance of this grant to our members and member clubs. If additional information is required please do not hesitate to contact Steve Egbert at (559) 936-3030.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Egbert".

Steve Egbert
President, CA4WDC